PhD Student Core Competencies and Expectations

This document is intended to support Ph.D. students as they develop core competencies and expectations for the successful completion of their doctoral education. Each of the suggested activities below can be completed as part of the student's work with their mentor, or through their own development of an independent stream of research.

Over the course of their graduate careers at UT, students will have several opportunities to participate in activities not emphasized below. We encourage students to work with their mentors to: 1) balance these opportunities alongside expectations for their professional development; and 2) develop strategic ways to synergize practice, service, teaching, and research-related activities. Examples of these other opportunities include:

- Service activities (e.g., committee work, leadership positions)
- Editorial assistance (e.g., help mentor organize edited volume; help mentor with journal editor responsibilities)
- Guest lectures outside of pedagogy class *Writing op-eds *Community service and advocacy
- Community engagement related to research, professional development, and/or leadership
- Opportunities to learn outside the SHSSW (elsewhere at UT & outside of UT)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
WRITING: Disseminate ideas through professional written and oral communication. *Publications are increasingly necessary on the academic job market. It is recommended that Ph.D. students develop and submit 3-4 first or co-authored publications prior to graduation.*	☐ Submit a co-authored paper in a professional journal ☐ Submit an abstract for presentation at a regional or national conference	☐ Submit a co-authored paper in a professional journal ☐ Submit an abstract for presentation at a national conference	☐ Submit a first-authored paper for publication ☐ Submit an abstract for presentation at a national conference ☐ Gain experience in grant proposal development ➢ Developing parts of a grant application with mentor ➢ Writing and submitting a grant application to fund dissertation research ➢ Taking a course on grant development ➢ Participating in a workshop on grant writing	☐ Submit a paper for publication ☐ Submit an abstract for presentation at a national conference ☐ Submit dissertation
RESEARCH: Learn to use and apply appropriate methods and ethical standards for the responsible conduct of social work research	☐ Complete IRB training ☐ Practice data management ☐ Develop expertise in data analysis ➢ Descriptive statistics	☐ Develop expertise in advanced data analysis ➢ SEM ➢ HLM ➢ Advanced Qual	☐ Develop and submit an IRB proposal ☐ Learn elements of project management ☐ Begin dissertation research	☐ Finalize dissertation research

	➢ Regression analysis ➢ Qualitative analysis	☐ Participate in primary data collection ➢ Surveys and assessments ➢ Individual qualitative interviews or focus groups ➢ Fieldwork	☐ Actively seek opportunities to advance learning and research skills ➢ Summer Statistics Institute ➢ Workshops at other universities	
CAREER DEVELOPMENT: Prepare for a professional career in social work research	☐ Join professional organization ☐ Network at professional conferences ☐ Attend a workshop on professional development ☐ Develop and maintain a *curriculum vitae* ☐ Order business cards ☐ Establish profile online ➢ Research gate ➢ Website ➢ Social media	☐ Develop individual development plan in collaboration with mentor ☐ Network at professional conferences ☐ Attend a workshop on professional development ☐ Develop and maintain a *curriculum vitae*	☐ Network at professional conferences ☐ Attend a workshop on professional development ☐ Develop and maintain a *curriculum vitae*	☐ Create cover letter (s) for job applications ☐ Develop and practice job talk ☐ Network at professional conferences ☐ Develop and maintain a *curriculum vitae* ☐ Develop a statement on diversity and inclusion ☐ Develop a research statement ☐ Develop a teaching philosophy ☐ Participate in mock interviews
PEDAGOGY		☐ Pedagogy course (required)	☐ Guest lecture (optional) ☐ AI position (optional)	☐ Guest lecture (optional) ☐ AI position (optional) ☐ Develop a teaching philosophy statement

Additional Comments: Use as much space as needed.

Student Signature & Date: _____ Faculty Mentor/Chair Signature & Date: _____